

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A virtual machine configurable to function as a web server, the virtual machine comprising:
  - 5 a request handler worker for handling queries relating to the virtual machine;
  - a plurality of services wherein a service performs operations for replying to an incoming query; and
  - an operations worker for constructing output containing a reply to the
- 10 incoming query, wherein the reply provides insight into or effects the operation of the virtual machine.
2. A virtual machine as recited in claim 1 wherein the request handler worker is an HTTP thread.
- 15 3. A virtual machine as recited in claim 2 wherein the incoming query is in HTTP format.
- Sub 20 4. A virtual machine as recited in claim 1 wherein the request handler worker further includes a query parser for parsing the incoming query.
5. A virtual machine as recited in claim 1 wherein the request handler worker is created upon starting up the virtual machine.
- 25 6. A virtual machine as recited in claim 1 wherein the request handler worker functions as a network traffic manager for routing queries and responses.





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22. A method as recited in claim 13 further including performing operations in the virtual machine using the service and under the control of the virtual machine operations worker.
- 5 23. A method as recited in claim 13 further including stopping normal operation of the virtual machine while the request is acted upon.
24. A method as recited in claim 13 further including sending a response from the virtual machine operations worker to the network traffic worker.
- 10 25. A method as recited in claim 13 wherein transmitting the response to the browser further includes the network traffic manager sending the response to the browser.
- 15 *Sub*  
*as* 26. A computer-readable medium containing programmed instructions arranged to handle an incoming query to a virtual machine, the computer-readable medium including programmed instructions for:
- 20       invoking a network traffic worker for receiving the request;  
         receiving a request from a browser;  
         processing the request to determine the service needed to respond to the request;  
         creating a request data structure;  
         effecting a response to the request by passing the request data structure to a virtual machine operations worker; and
- 25       transmitting the response to the browser.